

## CLAIMS

1. A rubber composition comprising a rubber component formed by compounding a styrene-butadiene copolymer (A) polymerized with a lithium based polymerization initiator, in which a polystyrene-conversion weight average molecular weight through a gel permeation chromatography is  $4.0 \times 10^5$ - $3.0 \times 10^6$  and a bound styrene content is 10-50 mass% and a vinyl bond content in butadiene portion is 20-70%, with 10-200 parts by mass of a hydrogenated styrene-isoprene copolymer (B) based on 100 parts by mass of the copolymer (A), in which a polystyrene-conversion weight average molecular weight through a gel permeation chromatography is  $5.0 \times 10^3$ - $2.0 \times 10^5$  and a bound styrene content is 25-70 mass% and not less than 60% of double bond in isoprene portion is hydrogenated, and having a relation between the bound styrene content of the polymer (A) and the bound styrene content of the polymer (B) satisfying the following equation:  
Bound styrene content of polymer (B) > bound styrene content of polymer (A) + 10 (mass%).

2. A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the polystyrene-conversion weight average molecular weight of the copolymer (A) is  $7.0 \times 10^5$ - $2.5 \times 10^6$ .

3. A rubber composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the bound styrene content of the copolymer (A) is 20-40 mass%.

4. A rubber composition according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein the vinyl bond content of the butadiene portion in the copolymer (A) is 30-60%.

5. A rubber composition according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein not less than 80% of double bond in the isoprene portion of the copolymer (B) is hydrogenated.

6. A rubber composition according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein the bound styrene content of the copolymer (A) and the bound styrene content of the copolymer (B) satisfy a relation of the following equation:

Bound styrene content of polymer (B) > bound styrene content of

polymer (A) + 15 (mass%).

7. A rubber composition according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein the copolymer (B) is compounded in an amount of 20-100 parts by mass based on 100 parts by mass of the copolymer (A).

8. A pneumatic tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in any one of claims 1-7 as a tread rubber.